

Some Salient Features in Governor Wilson's Speech of Acceptance

test and so lose its real dignity and significance. There is no indispensible man. The government will not collapse and go to pieces if any one of the gentlemen who are seeking to be elected to the guidance of the country is left at home. But men are instruments. We are as important as the stones we represent, and in order to be important must really represent a government. What is the cause of the people's cause? That is easy to say, but what does it mean? The common sense of the people is the cause, whatever. Yea, but that, too, needs translation into acts and policies. We represent the desire to set up an unalienable government, a government that cannot be used for private purposes, either in the field of business or otherwise. We are not to have a government that will not tolerate the use of the organization of a great party to serve the interests of a few individuals or of any individual, and that will not permit legislation to be employed to further any private interest. It is a great concern of mine to find out how far you also are. I could not have accepted a nomination which left me bound to a man can be just who is not free; anxious no man who has to show favors ought to undertake the solemn responsibility of representing the people, and, whatever, least of all in the supreme post of President of the United States. I would be bound to do as he would, wise. But wisdom comes with counsel, and with the frank and free conference of our friends. I have no counsel but common interest. Should I be intrusted with the great office of President, I would seek counsel wherever it could be had, and I would be glad to be a member of the great convention which nominated me; I know the temper of the people, and I know that that convention and spoke through it, with deep thankfulness the message you bring me from it. I feel that the people have a right to know the principles and ambitions of those of true servants of the people. Thank God